



To: All District Superintendents and School Principals including Tribal/Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, Title I Contacts, School Support Team Members, and School Improvement Contacts

From: Jim Hauck, Office of Educational Services & Support, Department of Education

Re: January Announcement of Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration (CSRD) Grants for SY 2004-2005

Date: January 15, 2004

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The Department of Education announces the new SY 2004-2005 round of the Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) Program. There are funds available for approximately three programs in this round. These funds must be used by the LEAs as start-up grants for schools on the threshold of implementing a comprehensive school reform, not as planning grants for schools only at the stage of contemplating the overall concept, nor as continuation grants for schools that have been working with model developers and are already well into the implementation stage. Funds allocated under this program may be used only to support the costs associated with implementation of the comprehensive reform model that it has selected.

**Complete updated information concerning this grant application is located at the South Dakota Department of Education web site.**

**SOUTH DAKOTA CSRD WEB SITE**

<http://www.state.sd.us/deca/TA/schreform>

If you are interested in applying for a grant you must file a pre-application (located at this CSR Website ) to be received at the Office of Educational Services & Support no later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 9, 2004. Failure to do so will disqualify your school from this round of funding.

The deadline for completed applications submitted to DECA is no later than 5 PM on Monday, Mar. 15, 2004. In order to best address the intent of the federal legislation, the RFP is designed to provide information that will be used to determine each applicant's level of eligibility for funding according to two categories of selection criteria: (1) the degree of need for reform and (2) the quality of the comprehensive school reform plan. Since the clear focus of the legislation is to stimulate school-wide change in schools that need to substantially improve student achievement, particularly Title I schools, these CSRD funds will be competitively awarded to schools that have been determined to demonstrate:

- the greatest need for comprehensive school reform, and
- the most promise for successful implementation and increased student achievement.

**A word to those schools that wish to consider this grant:** Since the planning for this grant necessitates a considerable amount of time and effort, it is suggested that those schools interested in pursuing this grant begin to gather and organize the necessary information and make contact with a model provider as soon as possible. There is excellent information on the South Dakota CSRD Website that will provide you with descriptions of some model programs as well as other very useful information to assist you in researching your program and developing your grant.

If you have any questions about the information on the web or need more information about the program, please telephone me at 605-773-4712 or e-mail [james.hauck@state.sd.us](mailto:james.hauck@state.sd.us).